

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A set top box comprising:
 - a first port capable of communicating with a first communications network;
 - a second port capable of communication with a second communications network and capable of receiving information from the second communications network;
 - a tuner capable of selecting a program;
 - a firewall in communication with the second port and capable of receiving communications from the second port and capable of analyzing the information received from the second communications network.
2. The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the second communications network is a telecommunications network.
3. The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the second communications network is a public switched telephone network.
4. The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the firewall receives communications from the second port before other components associated with the set top box.
5. The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the firewall is disposed logically between the second port and other components associated with the set top box.

6. The set top box according to claim 1, wherein the set top box further comprises a remote resource manager capable of receiving instructions from the second communications network.

7. A set top box comprising:

a first port capable of communicating with a first communications network,

a second port capable of communication with a second communications network and capable of receiving information from the second communications network;

a tuner in communication with the first communications network and capable of selecting a program;

a firewall in communication with the second port, capable of receiving communications from the second port and capable of filtering the information received from the second communications network.

8. The set top box according to claim 7, wherein firewall includes packet filtering.

9. The set top box according to claim 7, wherein firewall includes a proxy service.

10. The set top box according to claim 7, wherein firewall includes stateful inspection.

11. The set top box according to claim 7, wherein firewall is capable of analyzing information formatted in a communications protocol.

12. The set top box according to claim 7, wherein the set top box further comprises a remote resource manager capable of receiving instructions from the second communications network.

13. A set top box comprising:

a first port capable of communicating with a first communications network,

a second port capable of communication with a second communications network;

a tuner in communication with the first communications network and capable of selecting a program;

at least one fixed disk drive capable of storing the program information;

a firewall in communication with the second port, capable of receiving communications from the second port and capable of analyzing the information received from the second communications network.

14. The set top box according to claim 13, wherein the set top box further comprises an MPEG decoder.

15. The set top box according to claim 13, wherein the set top box further comprises a remote resource manager.

16. The set top box according to claim 15, wherein the remote resource manager is capable of receiving an instruction from the second communications network and wherein the instruction is used by the remote resource manager to modify a configuration of the set top box.

17. The set top box according to claim 15, wherein the remote resource manager is capable of sending information regarding resources associated with the set top box.